

Disaster Assistance

FEMA provides disaster assistance in the form of financial or direct assistance to individuals and families whose property has been damaged or destroyed as a result of Hurricane Sandy, and whose losses are not covered by insurance. Individuals can apply for FEMA disaster assistance online at www.disasterassistance.gov, by web enabled mobile device at m.fema.gov, by calling 1-800-621-FEMA, or by visiting a Disaster Recovery Center. Disaster assistance applicants, who have a speech disability or hearing loss and use TTY, should call 1-800-462-7585 directly; for those who use 711 or Video Relay Service (VRS), call 1-800-621-3362. Information about the disaster assistance program is available in other languages.

Disaster Legal Assistance

Disaster legal assistance is available on a case-by-case basis to disaster applicants. This includes legal advice, counseling and representation, may be provided to low-income disaster victims through an agreement with the Young Lawyers Division of the American Bar Association. For more information, contact 1-800-621-FEMA.

Disaster Recovery Centers

A Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) is a readily accessible facility or mobile office where applicants may go for information about FEMA or other disaster assistance programs. At DRCs, specialists from the state, FEMA and the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) are on hand to answer questions and provide information on the types of assistance available to survivors. In addition, individuals can apply for FEMA disaster assistance. To find a disaster recovery center location, check out the disaster recovery center locator at www.FEMA.gov/disaster-recovery-centers or by mobile phone at m.fema.gov. You may also text **DRC** and a **Zip Code** to **43362** (4FEMA). Language services are available at DRCs.

Community Relations Teams

Community relations teams with more than 1,700 representatives are on the ground in the hardest hit areas of the Mid-Atlantic going door to door to inform disaster survivors about available services and resources and to gather situational awareness. In addition, the teams survey survivors to determine language needs and subsequently translate materials as appropriate.

Information in Multi-Languages

FEMA has a link on its website (<http://www.fema.gov/all-languages>) that provides disaster assistance information and PSAs in other languages. In addition, FEMA has community relations flyers in different languages, including Vietnamese, Chinese, Hindi, Korean, Laotian, and Japanese to provide critical disaster assistance information

The following PSAs are currently being used in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut:

English: http://www.fema.gov/medialibrary/media_records/10329

Spanish: http://www.fema.gov/medialibrary/media_records/10330

Arabic: http://www.fema.gov/medialibrary/media_records/10355

Chinese: http://www.fema.gov/medialibrary/media_records/10348

Haitian: http://www.fema.gov/medialibrary/media_records/10354

Hebrew: http://www.fema.gov/medialibrary/media_records/10353
Korean: http://www.fema.gov/medialibrary/media_records/10351
Russian: http://www.fema.gov/medialibrary/media_records/10349
Tagalog : http://www.fema.gov/medialibrary/media_records/10352
Vietnamese: http://www.fema.gov/medialibrary/media_records/10350

FEMA's "Help After Disaster Guide," which is available in other languages, can be accessed at <http://www.fema.gov/help-after-disaster>.

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) has opened Business Recovery Centers in Connecticut, New York and New Jersey. These centers provide one-on-one help to business owners seeking disaster assistance for losses caused by Hurricane Sandy that began on October 26th. For more information, individuals can call the SBA Customer Service Center at 800-659-2955 (800-877-8339 for the deaf and hard-of-hearing) or go to www.sba.gov. Either in-person or telephonic language translation services are available.

In addition, SBA offers a variety of disaster assistance loans to homeowners, renters, businesses, and organizations as a result of Hurricane Sandy:

Home and Property Disaster Loans

Renters and homeowners alike may borrow up to \$40,000 to repair or replace clothing, furniture, cars, appliances, etc. damaged or destroyed in the disaster. Homeowners may apply for up to \$200,000 to repair or replace their primary residence to its pre-disaster condition. For information about how to apply, please visit <http://www.sba.gov/content/applying-disaster-loan>.

Business Physical Disaster Loan

SBA makes physical disaster loans of up to \$2 million to qualified businesses or private, nonprofit organizations. Businesses may apply directly with SBA online at <http://www.sba.gov/content/physical-disaster-loans>.

Economic Injury Disaster Loan

Small business, small agricultural cooperative, small business engaged in aquaculture, or private, nonprofit organization that have suffered economic injury, regardless of physical damage, and is located in the declared disaster area, may qualify for an Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL). SBA can provide up to \$2 million to help meet financial obligations and operating expenses which could have been met had the disaster not occurred. Businesses may apply directly with the SBA online at <http://www.sba.gov/content/economic-injury-disaster-loans>. For additional information, individuals can also contact the Customer Service Center at 1-800-659-2955.

SBA.gov now includes a translation tool to help Limited English Proficient (LEP) individuals access online information. LEP individuals can now learn about SBA resources and relief efforts in a variety of languages including Chinese, Japanese, Hindi, and Thai.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is coordinating with FEMA and affected states to identify housing providers who may have available housing units, including public housing agencies and multi-family owners. HUD is also speeding federal

disaster assistance to Connecticut, New York, and New Jersey to provide support to homeowners and low-income renters forced from their homes in the most heavily impacted areas. The President's major disaster declarations for Connecticut, New York, and New Jersey allow HUD to offer foreclosure relief and other assistance to some families in the designated counties. HUD also recently announced that it will speed federal disaster assistance to New Jersey, New York, and Connecticut and provide support to homeowners and low-income renters forced from their homes due to Hurricane Sandy. For more information, please visit <http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/sandy>.

The U.S. Health and Human Services (HHS) has more than 1,000 HHS personnel deployed to provide public health and medical assistance to New York and New Jersey. Fifteen Disaster Medical Assistance Teams from the National Disaster Medical System and two teams of U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps are deployed to New York and New Jersey to provide care in medical shelters and to augment hospital staff at the states' and cities' request. In addition, a team of specialists from the Administration for Children and Families is supporting child care and Head Start recovery efforts in New York and New Jersey. Following the Secretary's declarations of public health emergencies in New York and New Jersey, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services continues to approve waivers under section 1135 of the Social Security Act for healthcare providers in New York and New Jersey. For additional information about the waivers, please visit <http://www.cms.gov/About-CMS/Agency-Information/Emergency/index.html?redirect=/Emergency/>.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has authority to provide emergency assistance for its various disaster relief programs. As of November 6, 2012, the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) has provided disaster nutrition assistance, including Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP) replacement benefits and USDA Foods, to disaster survivors in 13 States in response to Hurricane Sandy.

Nutrition Assistance

USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) provides food assistance to those in need in areas affected by a disaster. This federal assistance is in addition to that provided by state and local governments. The FNS approved New York's request to provide USDA Foods to households impacted by Hurricane Sandy. Approximately 1.1 million pounds of household size USDA Foods will be distributed to households through a thousand designated emergency feeding outlets. More information can be found at <http://www.fns.usda.gov/disasters/disaster.htm>.

The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) approved funding in less than 24 hours after it was requested under its National Emergency Grant program. The funds are awarded to both New Jersey and New York to assist with cleanup and recovery efforts. More than \$15.5 million will be available to the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development to assist with the restoration of public lands and infrastructure while also providing temporary work to those in need of employment. More than \$27.7 million will be available to the New York Department of Labor to fund 1,400 temporary jobs for New Yorkers to assist with clean-up efforts in the five boroughs. For more information, please visit www.doleta.gov/NEG/.

DOL also provides emergency disaster unemployment insurance (DUA) to workers who lost their job or whose job was interrupted as a result of Hurricane Sandy and who may not otherwise be eligible for regular unemployment insurance benefits. To file a claim, individuals should contact their state unemployment insurance agency.

The Corporation for National Community Service (CNCS)_ deployed more than 900 national service members to seven states, with more than 850 on standby for assignments. Their duties include assisting with shelter operations, call centers, debris removal, and mass care in Connecticut, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and West Virginia. Members include AmeriCorps, Senior Corps, and 445 members of FEMA Corps, an innovative partnership between FEMA and AmeriCorps.